

Research and Technology Transfer Authorization Act. This bill will increase and enhance research and development in weather modification to better understand its effectiveness in addressing drought in our country.

The western part of our country, including my own state of Colorado, has experienced drought conditions in recent years. Efforts have been made to address drought recovery, preparedness and mitigation. However, little fundamental research has been done to better understand weather modification, which some believe can increase the snowpacks that provide water resources for several western states.

The National Academies of Science report Critical Issues in Weather Modification Research, released in 2003, noted that there is no scientific proof that weather modification is effective, however attributes this to a lack of understanding of "critical atmospheric processes" that has caused unpredictable results with weather modification, not a lack of success with such efforts. The report called for a national program for a sustained research effort in weather modification research to enhance the effectiveness and predictability of weather modification.

There is currently no federal investment in weather modification, though there are private funds that are largely going toward unproven techniques. My bill, similar to a bill introduced in the Senate by Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, establishes a federal research and development effort to improve our understanding of the atmosphere and develop more effective weather modification technologies and techniques.

Specifically, the bill creates a Weather Modification Advisory and Research Board in the Department of Commerce to promote the "theoretical and practical knowledge of weather modification" through the funding of research and development projects. The board will be made up of representatives from the American Meteorological Society, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a higher education institution and a state which is currently supporting operational weather modification projects.

In Colorado, a large portion of our water source comes from the snowpack run off each year. A better understanding of weather modifications has the potential to enhance our snowpacks, and thus assist in addressing drought concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support the expansion of the research and development of weather modification and urge a swift passage of this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include this personal explanation in the RECORD.

On June 17, 2005, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote #265 to the Fiscal Year 2006 Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations Act. I was unavoidably detained by other Congressional duties related to the 29th District of Texas.

I would have voted "no" on the Moran amendment to prohibit Federal funds from being used to license the export of .50 caliber firearms. Federal agencies already have the ability to prohibit exports of certain firearms to certain countries or groups when that is in the national interest. In addition, there are countless sources of firearms in the global marketplace. Unfortunately, this amendment would not have provided any benefits in terms of reducing terrorists' access to firearms.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. RICHARD WALLINGFORD, JR.

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, doctors of optometry from around the nation will convene in Dallas, Texas, from June 22–26 for Optometry's Meeting, the American Optometric Association's 108th annual convention. On Saturday, June 25, they will elect Dr. Richard Wallingford, Jr. as the association's 84th president.

Dr. Wallingford is a resident of Rockwood, Maine, on Moosehead Lake. He is a native son who has practiced optometry in our state for 30 years. He is a graduate of the University of Maine at Orono and the College of Optometry at the State University of New York. He currently serves as Director of Clinical Services at Vision Care of Maine in Bangor.

Dr. Wallingford has been a leader in his profession at the state, regional and national levels. He has been a member of the Maine Optometric Association since 1975, and served as president in 1982. He was appointed to the Maine Board of Optometry in 1989, and he served until 1999. He was also a member of the New England Council of Optometrists, and he currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the New England College of Optometry.

At the national level, Dr. Wallingford has been a member of American Optometric Association (AOA) since 1971, and has served in the association's volunteer structure since 1983. He was elected to the AOA Board of Trustees in 1998 and was re-elected in 2001.

Remarkably, Dr. Wallingford has maintained his hectic schedule while battling multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer. Diagnosed with the disease in 2000, he began an aggressive treatment plan last year which included six rounds of chemotherapy and two stem cell transplants. In January, Dr. Wallingford received good news that the myeloma was in remission.

In his community, Dr. Wallingford was elected to the board of Maine School Administrative District (MSAD) #67, where he served as chairman for two years. He was president of

the Lincoln Rotary Club and chairman of the Lincoln Recreation Committee. He also coached youth baseball and basketball.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Dr. Wallingford is a devoted outdoorsman. He has been a member of the National Ski Patrol since 1989 and serves on the Squaw Mountain Ski Patrol. He is a licensed whitewater guide and has a land and sea rating as a licensed private pilot. Dr. Wallingford also owns and manages the Moosehead Lake Sporting Camps and Mt. Kineo Cabins.

Dr. Wallingford and his wife Elaine have been married for 35 years and they have three children. Richard III is a physician and is completing his residency in psychiatry at Harvard University. Denise holds a Master's Degree from Boston College and is an elementary school teacher. Tiffany is a graduate student at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, California.

The American Optometric Association is the professional society for optometrists nationwide and has more than 34,000 members. Dr. Wallingford will lead the association on its mission to improve eye and vision care in the United States.

Dr. Richard Wallingford has built a distinguished record of service and leadership in his profession and in his community. I am confident that he will have a very successful term as president of the American Optometric Association. I join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating him on this achievement and wishing him good luck and good health.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 20, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on Friday, June 17, 2005 due to a previously scheduled event in my district. Had I been able to, I would have voted:

Against the Royce amendment to H.R. 2745 (rollcall vote No. 274).

Against the Fortenberry amendment to H.R. 2745 (rollcall vote No. 275).

Against the Flake amendment to H.R. 2745 (rollcall vote No. 276).

For the Chabot amendment to H.R. 2745 (rollcall vote No. 277).

Against the Pence amendment to H.R. 2745 (rollcall vote No. 278).

Against the Gohmert amendment to H.R. 2745 (rollcall vote No. 279).

Against the Stearns amendment to H.R. 2745 (rollcall vote No. 280).

For the Lantos amendment to H.R. 2745 (rollcall vote No. 281).

Against Final passage of H.R. 2745 (rollcall vote No. 282).